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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Twenty-sixth executive session
Geneva, 10 April 2001
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION

Provisional agenda and annotations for the twenty-sixth executive session of the Trade and Development Board

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

The provisional agenda for the twenty-sixth executive session of the Trade and Development Board is reproduced in section I below. The secretariat's annotations, contained in section II, are intended to provide essential background information covering the provisional agenda items, together with a brief description of the relevant documentation.

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I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Reports of the Commissions to the Trade and Development Board

   (a) Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, fifth session, 19 – 23 February 2001 and 23 March 2001
   (b) Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues, fifth session, 12 – 16 February 2001
   (c) Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development, fifth session, 22 – 26 January 2001

3. Review of the experience in the implementation of the recommendations on improving the functioning and the structure of the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD

4. Progress report on the preparatory process for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

5. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

   (a) Membership of the Trade and Development Board

   (b) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 - Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda for the session was circulated on 14 February 2001. The revised provisional agenda is reproduced above.

Documentation

TD/B/EX(26)/1	Provisional agenda

Item 2 - Reports of the Commissions to the Trade and Development Board

(a) Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, fifth session, 19 – 23 February 2001 and 23 March 2001

The Commission will hold its final plenary on 26 March 2001 in order to adopt the recommendations of its experts meetings. The annotations will be issued in an addendum.

(b) Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues, fifth session, 12 – 16 February 2001

The Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues held its fifth session from 12 to 16 February 2001 in Geneva. The report of the session is contained in document TD/B/48/4.

Under its agenda item 3, "Impact of international investment flows on development: mergers and acquisitions - policies aimed at maximizing the positive and minimizing the possible negative impact of international investment", the Commission engaged in policy dialogues based on the outcomes of the expert meeting (TD/B/COM.2/26) and the related secretariat note (TD/B/COM.2/29). It adopted agreed recommendations addressed to Governments, the international community and UNCTAD (see TD/B/48/4).

Under its agenda item 4, "International policy issues: home country measures", the Commission had before it a secretariat note (TD/B/COM.2/30) and the "Report of the Expert Meeting on Home Country Measures" (TD/B/COM.2/27), which served as the basis for the policy dialogue during the session. It adopted agreed recommendations addressed to Governments, the international community and UNCTAD (see TD/B/48/4).

Under its agenda item 5, "Investment policy reviews: exchange of national experience", the Commission considered the investment policy reviews of Ecuador, Ethiopia, Mauritius and Peru, with high-level participation from the countries concerned. The discussions were summarized by the secretariat in the final report of the Commission. It was suggested that, on the basis of informal consultations with member States, the secretariat should draw up a proposal to revise the format for this agenda item, with a view to ensuring that more time be allocated for

discussion in the Commission. The proposal may be taken up in the context of the review of the functioning of the intergovernmental machinery.

Under its agenda item 6 "Report of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission", the Commission took note of the oral presentation on the seventeenth session of Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting by its Chairperson, and endorsed its report.

(c) Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development, fifth session, 22 – 26 January 2001

The fifth session of the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development was held in Geneva from 22 to 26 January 2001. The report of this session is contained in document TD/B/48/3 - TD/B/COM.3/37.

Discussions on item 3 of its agenda were based on secretariat documents "Enhancing the competitiveness of SMES in the context of FDI in developing countries" (TD/B/COM.3/34) and the "Report of the Expert Meeting on the Relationship between SMEs and TNCs to Ensure the Competitiveness of SMEs" (TD/B/COM.3/31). The discussions highlighted the positive impact that TNC-SME linkages could have on national growth and development, in particular for enhancing the productive capacity of a strong domestic enterprise sector. The Commission adopted agreed recommendations, which largely endorsed the conclusions from the Expert Meeting.

Under item 4 of its agenda, "Capacity-building in electronic commerce: impact of the new economy on traditional sectors of developing economies: electronic commerce and tourism", the Commission reviewed the recommendations formulated by the Expert Meeting on Electronic Commerce and Tourism, which was held in Geneva from 18 to 20 September 2000. The Expert Meeting discussed policies and practical actions to increase the participation of developing countries and countries in transition in electronic commerce, especially as regards tourism services. The report of the Expert Meeting is contained in document TD/B/COM.3/30. In order to facilitate the discussion, the secretariat prepared a note (TD/B/COM.3/35) that focused on specific policy questions posed by the Expert Meeting for consideration by the Commission. Following a policy dialogue on the proposed policies and measures, the Commission adopted a set of policy recommendations addressed to Governments, the international community and UNCTAD with a view to promoting the development and growth of electronic commerce, including electronic tourism, in developing countries (TD/B/48/3,TD/B/COM.3/L.17).

Under item 5 of its agenda, "Human resources development and training in trade-supporting services: Key to growth with special potential for LDCs", the Commission examined the outcome of the Expert Meeting on Human Resources Development and Training in Trade-Supporting Services: Key to Growth with Special Potential for the LDCs, which was held in Geneva from 13 to 15 December 2000. For this purpose, the Commission considered the report of the Expert Meeting (TD/B/COM.3/32) and a note by the secretariat on "Human Resources Development in Trade-Supporting Services" (TD/B/COM.3/36). On the basis of these documents, a policy dialogue was held, during which the Commission paid particular attention to the fact that human resources development (HRD) is an indispensable element in all development activities. It consequently recognized the need to accord the highest priority to HRD issues. The Commission

subsequently adopted a set of agreed recommendations addressed to Governments, the international community and UNCTAD. The agreed recommendations cover both policy approaches and practical measures for enhancing development through HRD and training. Several of the practical measures proposed call for joint public/private action and for joint efforts by bodies in different countries facing similar situations. The agreed recommendations are contained in documents TD/B/48/3 and TD/B/COM.3/L.18.

Item 3 - Review of the experience in the implementation of the recommendations on improving the functioning and the structure of the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD

Pursuant to the decision of the Trade and Development Board at its twenty-fourth executive session on 24 March 2000, the Consultations of the President of the Trade and Development Board decided to allow a one-cycle trial period for the implementation of the recommendations contained in document TD/B/EX(24)/L.1 on improving the functioning and the structure of the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD, and to review the experience in one-year's time after the completion of the first cycle of meetings on 24 March 2001.

Delegations may wish to reflect on the experience so far and agree on any urgent measures that may be required, bearing in mind that the overall review of the machinery will take place in the context of the mid-term review at the end of the second cycle.

Item 4 - Progress report on the preparatory process for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The intersessional negotiations and the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries are scheduled to take place from 26 March to 6 April 2001 in New York. The Secretary-General of the Conference and the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee will provide oral reports on the outcome of the Preparatory Committee and the progress in the preparatory process for the Conference.

Item 5 - Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

(a) Membership of the Trade and Development Board

The membership of the Board at present stands at 145.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Lesotho communicated on 19 February 2001 to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD Lesotho's wish to join the membership of the Board. The Board may wish to invite Lesotho to join its membership and to participate fully in its work.

(b) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board

At present there are 109 intergovernmental organizations in status with UNCTAD. A list of these organizations is contained in document TD/B/IGO/LIST/3.

There are no new applications before the Board for its consideration at this session.

(c) Designation on non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board

At present there are 185 non-governmental organizations in status with UNCTAD. A list of these organizations is contained in document TD/B/NGO/LIST/3 and adds. 1,2, and 3.

Since the twenty-fifth executive session of the Board, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD has received applications from two non-governmental organizations requesting their inclusion by the Board in the list provided for in rule 77 of the Board's rules of procedure. These are: The Service Centre for Development Cooperation (KEPA) and the Exchange and Cooperation Center for Latin America (ECCLA). Background information on these organizations is contained in documents TD/B/EX (26)/R.1 and R.2.

Item 6 - Other business

Item 7 - Report of the Board on its twenty-sixth executive session

The Board may wish to authorize the Rapporteur to finalize the report on its twenty-sixth executive session under the authority of the President.